

BIODIVERSITY POLICY

2011 - 2012

1. The Institute of Education's environmental and sustainability policy asserts the organisation's commitment to improving its environmental performance, including biodiversity. All aspects of the Institute's operations, including procurement, facilities management, travel plans and events management have an impact on biodiversity.

2. The Institute will take the following actions to reduce the impact of such activities on biodiversity of the local area:
 - Make the most of opportunities to conserve and enhance biodiversity through rooftop garden areas and sedum terraces. The Thornhaugh Mews building will incorporate a publicly accessible green roof. We are also investigating the installation of sedum boxes on some of the terraces. A recent biodiversity audit recommended roof terraces to include a minimum of 25 plant species of native UK provenance with colonisation of a further 4 – 11 species. A further 12 native species could be added to the planning schedule with a high diversity native grass/wildflower seed mix.

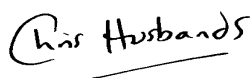
 - Conserve and enhance existing habitats, through the installation of bat boxes, swift nesting boxes and small bird nesting boxes. Three species of bats are known to be present in nearby Regents Park and though difficult to colonise, bat boxes will be fixed into high level areas of the Institute's terraces. Swifts are well known in the Bloomsbury area and nesting boxes will be placed on buildings to encourage these birds to use the area. Small bird nest boxes will be placed around the sheltered areas of the main building to provide nesting habitats for small birds.

 - Ensure that all building refurbishments and any new building designs or construction consider ecological impact and opportunities for ecological enhancement of the project. Contractors will be asked to nominate a 'biodiversity' champion with the authority to influence site activities and

ensure that detrimental impacts in biodiversity are minimised in line with the recommendations of a suitably qualified ecologist. Works will be timed to minimise disturbance to flora/fauna, particularly in relation to nesting birds.

- Work in partnership with environmental groups, local authorities and neighbouring colleges, to share knowledge and resources; to consider the Bloomsbury precinct as an area for pursuing improved biodiversity through the coordinated efforts and support of the Bloomsbury Environmental Manager.
 - Ensure that the Institute's purchasing policy favours those products and services that have the least impact on biodiversity; seek similar standards and principles towards biodiversity conservation from all third parties involved with our business – suppliers, vendors and contractors.
3. The Institute is situated in inner London and the nature of the estate is therefore challenging in terms of encouraging bio-diversity. The Institute's estate is made up entirely of urban buildings, with no external areas, except a bricked concourse which leads to the main building. It has no grassed areas or external planting. Over 90% of the estate is Grade 2 or Grade 2* listed, which constrains our ability to install features on the external facings of the buildings that would attract more biodiversity.
4. However, the Institute is mindful of its obligation to enhance the flora and fauna of the area and to minimise its impact on the environment. It will therefore promote environmental preservation activities and work towards its objectives to broaden the biodiversity of the area.

Signed



Professor Chris Husbands

Director, Institute of Education

7 March 2011